WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for detecting the presence of or predisposition to an ectodermal disorder comprising the steps of:

(a) detecting the presence of ~~a TAJ gene~~ a human TAJ gene or gene product in a cell; and

(b) correlating the presence of the TAJ gene or gene product with a presence of or predisposition to an ectodermal disorder.

2. ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene.

3. ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript.

4. ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein.

5. ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step is performed inferentially by determining a diagnostic sequence of the TAJ gene or gene product in the individual.

6. ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to an ectodermal disorder.

7. ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome.

8. ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

SUB A1

9. A method for modulating the functional expression of a TAJ gene or gene product in a cell comprising the step(s) of:

contacting a cell with an agent which specifically binds and modulates the functional

expression of a TAJ gene or gene product, wherein:

(a) the cell is an ectodermal cell; or

(b) the cell is a germ cell which gives rise to progeny ectodermal cells and detecting the functional expression of the TAJ gene or gene product in the progeny cells.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the cell is in situ.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the cell is ex situ.

12. The method according to claim 9, wherein the contacting step reduces the functional expression of the TAJ gene or gene product.

13. The method according to claim 9, wherein the agent is an antibody which specifically binds a TAJ protein.

14. The method according to claim 9, wherein the agent is an intrabody which specifically binds a TAJ protein.

15. The method according to claim 9, wherein the agent is an agonist or antagonist of a TAJ protein.

16. The method according to claim 9, wherein the agent is an antisense oligonucleotide which specifically binds a TAJ gene transcript.

17. The method according to claim 9, wherein the agent is an oligonucleotide which specifically binds a TAJ gene.

18. The method according to claim 9, wherein the agent is an oligonucleotide which specifically binds a TAJ gene, whereby the gene is changed to a different TAJ gene.

19. The method according to claim 9, wherein the agent is an oligonucleotide which

specifically binds a TAJ gene, whereby the gene is changed from a TAJ gene correlated with a presence of or predisposition to an ectodermal disorder to a different TAJ gene not so correlated.

20. The method according to claim 9, wherein the agent is an oligonucleotide which specifically binds a TAJ gene, whereby the gene is changed from a TAJ gene correlated with a presence of or predisposition to an ectodermal disorder to a different TAJ gene not so correlated, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome.

21. The method according to claim 9, wherein the agent is an oligonucleotide which specifically binds a TAJ gene, whereby the gene is changed from a TAJ gene correlated with a presence of or predisposition to an ectodermal disorder to a different TAJ gene not so correlated, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.